

**MINUTES**  
**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**  
**1917 IH-35 SOUTH, BOARD ROOM, AUSTIN, TX**  
**November 29, 2012- 10:00 AM**

**Call to Order.** James "Jim" Greer, P.E., Committee Chair, called the General Issues Committee meeting to order at 10:00 am on November 29, 2012, at the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, 1917 South Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78741 (All votes are unanimous, unless otherwise noted).

**1. Roll call and welcome visitors.**

James "Jim" Greer, P.E.	Chair
Carry A. Baker	Member
Bobby Ballí, P.E.	Member
Daniel Wong, Ph.D., P.E.	Member

A quorum was present. Ms. Veena Mohan, Assistant Attorney General was present to provide legal counsel to the Board. Mr. Edmundo Gonzalez, Jr., P.E., and Mr. Jose I. Guerra, P.E., Emeritus Board Members were present.

The following staff members were present:

Lance Kinney, P.E.	Executive Director
Priscilla Pipho, MPA	Deputy Executive Director
David Howell, P.E.	Director of Licensing
C.W. Clark, P.E.	Director of Compliance & Enforcement
Dewey Helmcamp III, J.D.	Staff Attorney
Jeff Mutscher	Director of Finance
Dorothy Gonzales	Executive Assistant

**Visitors.** Terry Bilderback, P.E., Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE); Doug Bell, P.E., TSPE

**2. Public comment.** None.

**DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON THE FOLLOWING (AGENDA ITEMS 3-7):**

**3. Discuss and possibly approve the August 16, 2012 General Issues Committee Minutes.**

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Ballí/Wong) to approve the August 16, 2012, General Issues Committee minutes as submitted. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

**4. TBPE Building Maintenance.**

Mr. Kinney reported that the Strategic Planning Project Team lead by Mr. Clark, P.E., has suggested getting a security consultant to review the lobby security. Mr. Kinney commented that he will bring any updates and recommendations at the next General Issues meeting. Other building renovation things are being reviewed and considered strategically. He added that in the meantime, the carpets and windows will be cleaned, the building cleaned, and two of the windows in the board room replaced. He also reported that Mr. Mutscher is working on the infrastructure and equipment maintenance team. Mr. Mutscher added that tree limbs and removal of trees has also been done. Mr. Kannappan asked if there were any plans to expand the parking area. Mr. Kinney responded that not at the present time but can be added to the list

of potential projects. Mr. Ballí asked if there has been any consideration about a possible overall expansion plan. He suggested that a registered Architect may be able to provide information. Mr. Kinney responded that at current time, there is additional expansion space available and any expansion possibilities will be thought out strategically. Mr. Mutscher commented that a security consultation would run approximately \$7,000. Mr. Guerra offered to assist with a consultant. Dr. Wong opined that any expansion might consider having a large room that can accommodate large societies/organizations and provide for outreach meetings. Mr. Greer asked what the rules are for persons parking in the adjacent lot. Mr. Mutscher said that the lot is controlled by the neighboring tenant and is monitored. Mr. Mutscher noted that Board members and staff should be careful and not park in the adjacent parking lot.

#### **5. Update on Texas Windstorm Inspectors.**

Mr. Howell reported that the Board has been accepting applications since January for the PE roster of qualified engineers. The TBPE roster is for engineers that want to be windstorm inspectors. The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) passed a rule in October that stated if windstorm inspectors are not on the TBPE qualified roster by December 31, 2012, they will be taken off the TDI Windstorm Inspector roster. All 800 PEs on the current TDI windstorm inspector list have been notified via multiple emails and newsletters that if they are not on the TBPE qualified PE roster, they will be removed from the TDI Windstorm Inspector list. At this time, out of the 800 there are 101 people on the TBPE qualified PE roster. Mr. Howell added that there are approximately 100 people that have started the application process but have not completed it. Roughly 200 people have shown a level of interest. The TBPE process is simple: PEs interested in being added to the list must submit an application, demonstrate competence related to windstorm, and provide documentation of technical competence as required by the rule; verification may be done electronically through the ECHO system available to licensees. Once the PE has been approved there is an indicator in the database that adds their name to the roster which is posted on our website. TDI checks our website when they receive an application to be a Windstorm Inspector. Mr. Ballí asked what is the work load on staff, and how is it going to affect staff in the future, i.e. licensure, enforcement. Mr. Kinney responded that at current time, we have been able to handle the work with our current staff. The IT department has built a system to maintain, test, and track other documents and have modified the database. Mr. Howell and his team have been able to handle the applications in addition to the PE applications being processed. Enforcement is not a large part of the application process. Another part of the bill is to work with TDI enforcement, and we seem to be receiving more TDI enforcement cases. Mr. Clark commented that TBPE has received twice as many enforcement cases from TDI than before. He added that IT has also added features to identify and documents such cases as we go through. Mr. Kinney also mentioned that the deadline will create extra workload to the Licensing department but he didn't think that all 800 on the TDI windstorm list would apply with the Board. Mr. Howell commented that, according to TDI, out of the 800 current Windstorm Inspectors, only approximately 200 are actually doing windstorm inspections.

**6. TBPE/TBAE Task Force.**

Mr. Kinney reported that the Task Force met June 12, 2012, in San Antonio, and again September 25, 2012. Dr. Raba and Mr. Ballí are the TBPE board members on the Task Force as well as a non-board member Mr. Jim Winton, P.E. The law and rules are being enforced as written. The Task Force is currently working on issues regarding mix-use projects, foundations and simple foundations, drainage and hydraulic management. There was also a roofing issue which was finalized. The next meeting will be scheduled for some time in the Spring. Mr. Ballí added that it has been an interesting process and members are working well together.

**7. Issues for consideration and schedule next meeting.**

Mr. Greer thanked Dr. Wong for his previous leadership of the General Issues Committee.

**Adjourn.**

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Ballí/Wong) to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 am. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

Date Committee approved minutes as submitted:

February 14, 2013

Date Board accepted minutes:

February 14, 2013